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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/017W
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P 121539Z JUL 95  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY  
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0974

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 002172

E.O. 12356: DECL, 8/7/00  
TAGS:PREL, PGOV, RW, CG  
SUBJECT: THE GREAT LAKES ASSOCIATION IN REGIONAL  
DIPLOMACY

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT

2. DURING HIS BRIEF VISIT TO KIGALI, AMBASSADOR  
BOGOSIAN MET WITH SALVATORE MATATA, SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE COMMUNITY OF GREAT LAKES STATES (CEPGL). MATATA  
REPORTED MUBUTU'S INSISTENCE THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN  
RWANDA AND ZAIRE ON REFUGEE AND BORDER ISSUES BE IN THE  
CONTEXT OF THE CEPGL, AN ASSOCIATION WHICH HE HAS LONG  
DOMINATED. RWANDA WAS CHARY OF THE CEPGL CONNECTION  
FOR THAT VERY REASON, BUT GIVEN THE DIFFICULTY OF  
ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH ZAIREANS BY OTHER MEANS, HAD

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SEEN THE UTILITY OF USING THAT FORUM. MATATA HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE RECENT MEETING OF CEPGL DEFENSE MINISTERS IN BUJUMBURA AND WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO BUMUMBURA FOR A FOLLOW UP MEETING AT THE BRIGADE COMMANDER LEVEL IN WHICH MONITORING ALONG THE BORDER WAS TO BE COORDINATED AND DEFENSE INFORMATION SHARED. ALTHOUGH THE INTITIAL MEETING HAD BEEN QUITE COOL AND RESPECTIVE POSITIONS FAR APART, IT HAD RESULTED IN A VALUABLE EXCHANGE AND BROUGHT PRACTICAL RESULTS THROUGH FOLLOW-ON MECHANISMS.

3. MATATA FELT THAT THE CEPGL COULD BE A USEFUL CONDUIT FOR ADDRESSING THE REGIONAL DIMENSIONS OF THE RWANDA PROBLEM. IT HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING AN ORGANIZATION ALREADY IN PLACE, WITH A TRACK RECORD OF BEING AN EFFECTIVE ARENA FOR DISCUSSING DIFFERENCES BETGWEEN STATES IN THE REGION. HAVING A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT, IT COULD TRACK PROGRESS ON AGREED POSITIONS, RATHER THAN HAVE SUCH AGREEMENTS IGNORED AFTER MEETINGS OF DECISION MAKERS AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE JANUARY SUMMIT CONVENED BY MOI IN NAIROBI. SINCE ITS PROCEDURES WERE ESTABLISHED AND ITS PERSONNEL KNOW, PROGRESS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION COULD HAPPEN WITHOUT FANFARE AND SUBSEQUENT DISAPPOINTMENT WHICH ACCOMPQIED LARGER CONVENTIONS, LIKE THE REFUGEE CONFERENCE IN BUJUMBURA. MATATA DID NOT EXCLUDE THE EFFICACY OF UN-SPOSNOSRED CONFERENCES OR CHIEF OF STATE SUMMITS BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE CEPGL COULD BE AN ARENA FOR ELABORATING AREAS OF AGREEMENT OR DELINEATING POINTS OF CONTENTION TO BE DISCUSSED AT SUCH MEETINGS, WHILE PROVIDING CHANNELS FOR FOLLOWING UP ON RESULTS OF LARGER CONVOCATIONS. HE  
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SAID HE HAD CUT HIS STAFF BY TWO THIRDS; THE TRIMMER OPERATION WAS BETTER EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH INTERSTATE DIPLOMACY THAN WAS THE MORE AMBITIOUS ORGANIZATION HE HAD INHERITED WITH ITS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL AGENDA.

4. COMMENT. MATATA'S ANALYSIS WAS NO-DOUBT SELF-SERVING, BUT IT IS TRUE THAT RWANDAN AND ZAIREAN LEADERS HAVE MET MORE OFTEN AT CHIEF OF STATE AND

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MINISTERIAL LEVELS UNDER CEPGL AUSPICES ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~  
OTHER MEANS. CEPGL HAS ALSO SO FAR PROVIDED THE ONLY  
CONCRETE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISMS AMONG ALL THE PROPOSALS  
PUT FORWARD AT VARIOUS REGIONAL CONCLAVES. WE WOULD  
LET KINSHASA COMMENT ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH ZAIRE  
REALLY PREFERS TO USE CEPGL AS AN INSTITUTION OR FORMAT  
FOR DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER MODEST ITS REAL  
ACHIEVEMENTS, CEPGL HAS BEEN ABLE TO BRING PARTIES  
TOGETHER. AS WE CONSIDER UN AND OAU SPONSORSHIP OF  
REGIONAL INITIATIVES, WE SHOULD NOT IGNORE THE UTILITY  
OF KEEPING CEPGL AS PARTNER TO THE PROCESS OF REGIONAL  
DIALOGUE.

5. MATATA'S MEETING WITH BOGOSIAN FOLLOWED BRIEF  
MEETINGS THE WEEK BEFORE WITH AID OFFICIALS MCALL,  
GOLDEN AND HJELT AT WHICH HE ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN  
PUTTING BACK TOGETHER HIS RANSACKED SECRETARIAT. AT  
OUR SUGGESTION HE HAS NOW SUBMITTED A MODEST BUDGET  
FOR FUNDING OF BASIC OFFICE EQUIPMENT (REQUEST HAS BEEN  
HAND CARRIED BY MR. NYIBIZI TO AID/MCCALL). HELPING  
CEPGL BE EFFECTIVE IS A MOST USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO  
PEACE IN THIS REGION. WE URGE THE QUICKEST POSSIBLE  
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AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO MATATA'S REQUEST.  
RAWSON

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